

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION**

HI-TECH PHARMACEUTICALS INC.,

Plaintiff,

V.

CASE NO.: 1:15-cv-01413-SCJ

**PIETER A. COHEN,
CLAYTON BLOSZIES,
CALEB YEE and ROY GERONA**

Defendants.

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

COMES NOW, the Plaintiff, Hi-Tech Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (“Hi-Tech”), by and through the undersigned counsel of record, and hereby amends its Complaint against the Defendants, showing as follows:

I. Parties

1. Hi-Tech is corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia, with its principal place of business located at 6015-B Unity Drive, Norcross, Georgia 30071. Hi-Tech does substantial business within the State of Georgia, and throughout the United States, including manufacturing, sales, distribution, marketing and promotion of dietary supplement products, including products containing *Acacia rigidula*, and Hi-Tech enjoys an international reputation

for excellence in the dietary supplement industry. Hi-Tech has earned and maintained brand recognition, goodwill, and a positive reputation in the community of dietary supplements consumers, suppliers and retailers.

2. Defendant Pieter A. Cohen (“Cohen”) is an individual and general internist at the Cambridge Health Alliance and assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. Pieter A. Cohen may be served with process at 236 Highland Avenue, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143.

3. Defendant Clayton Bloszies (“Bloszies”) is an individual and works at the Department of Chemistry at Haverford College. Clayton Bloszies may be served with process at 370 Lancaster Avenue Haverford, Pennsylvania 19041.

4. Defendant Caleb Yee (“Yee”) is an individual and works at the Department of Laboratory Medicine, University of California, San Francisco. Caleb Yee may be served with process at 513 Parnassus Ave, Med Science Department of Laboratory Medicine, San Francisco, CA 94143.

5. Defendant Roy Gerona (“Gerona”) is an individual and works at the Department of Laboratory Medicine, University of California, San Francisco. Roy Gerona may be served with process at 513 Parnassus Ave, Med Science Department of Laboratory Medicine, San Francisco CA 94143.

II. Jurisdiction and Venue

6. This is an action for injunctive relief, compensatory and punitive damages against Defendants Cohen, Bloszies, Yee, and Gerona who have violated Georgia's Uniform Unfair Trade Practices Act and published false and malicious statements about the safety and efficacy of dietary supplements containing *Acacia rigidula* manufactured by Hi-Tech and others and caused damage to Hi-Tech's business and its present and future business relations.

7. This court has original jurisdiction based upon Georgia's Long Arm Statute, O.C.G.A. § 9-10-91(2).

8. Venue is proper in this jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Plaintiff's principal place of business is located in the Northern District of Georgia and many of the damages that are the subject of this Complaint occurred in this District.

9. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367, this Court also has supplemental jurisdiction over Hi-Tech's claims arising from the laws of the State of Georgia as those claims are substantially related to those causes of action over which the Court has original jurisdiction.

10. Jurisdiction is also conferred on this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(1) through diversity of citizenship, as the action is between citizens of different states and the amount in controversy, exclusive of interest and costs, exceeds seventy-five

thousand dollars (\$75,000.00). Plaintiff is a corporation of the State of Georgia for purposes of diversity jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332. Defendant Cohen is a citizen of Massachusetts. Defendants Yee and Gerona are citizens of California; and Defendant Bloszies is a citizen of Pennsylvania.

III. Summary of the Case

11. Defendants Cohen, Bloszies, Yee, and Gerona have published and/or uttered multiple false and malicious defamatory statements about the safety of dietary supplements containing *Acacia rigidula* manufactured by Hi-Tech and others and defamed and disparaged Hi-Tech's products and commercial reputation.

12. The false statements published by Defendants conveyed to the average listener or reader, and the FDA the overall net impression that Hi-Tech illegally manufactures and sells products with a synthetic amphetamine isomer known as β -methylphenylethylamine (BMPEA) while falsely labeling the ingredient as *Acacia rigidula*.

13. Thus, Defendants published false information that Hi-Tech is selling adulterated, dangerous and illegal products and is engaged in criminal activity.

14. In an effort to pursue their crusade against dietary supplements, Defendants ignored fundamental canons and methods of scientific investigation and integrity

and published accusations which Defendants knew or should have known were false.

IV. Statement of the Facts

A. Plaintiff Hi-Tech Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and its Products Containing *Acacia rigidula*.

15. *Acacia rigidula* is a species of shrub or small tree in the legume family, *Fabaceae*. Its native range stretches from Texas in the United States south to central Mexico. The plant has been used in traditional medicine by Native Americans for many years to treat a variety of ailments. *Acacia rigidula* contains about 40 different chemical compounds and amines and has become famous for its promotion of weight loss and energy and its ability to elevate mood and metabolic rate. Among the many compounds is naturally occurring beta-methylphenylethylamine (BMPEA), which is a phenylethylamine alkaloid.

16. Hi-Tech's product is an extract of the *Acacia rigidula* plant. Hi-Tech developed a proprietary process to produce an extract from the *Acacia rigidula* plant (raw materials) which contains BMPEA *as well as* other ingredients. Hi-Tech expended vast resources to bring its *Acacia* extract to market and derives a substantial portion of its revenues through the sale of its branded products containing the ingredient as well as its sales through contract manufacturing and providing *Acacia rigidula* as a raw material.

17. Hi-Tech's *Acacia rigidula* extract was standardized to contain, and make the level uniform per dose, many of the active alkaloids found by Texas A&M researchers in 1997 and 1998 while researching the *Acacia* species. Texas A&M enjoys a particularly strong reputation for excellence in the area of research and development related to Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences and Department of Agricultural and Life Sciences. The *Acacia rigidula* extract used in Hi-Tech products employs a proprietary extraction technology based, in part, on the research conducted at Texas A&M.

18. The *Acacia rigidula* extract used by Hi-Tech has been continually lab-tested by several certified testing facilities and has been continually used and accepted for import by the FDA and U.S. Customs for use in dietary supplements since approximately 2004. The *Acacia rigidula* extract has been deemed safe enough to conduct human trials by several Internal Review Boards.

19. Among the well-known Hi-Tech products containing *Acacia rigidula* are Fastin XRTM, Fastin Rapid ReleaseTM, LipodreneTM, Stimerex ESTM, and Black WidowTM, among others.

20. Hi-Tech has also invested large sums of money on double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trials of its products to ensure their safety and efficacy.

21. Despite having sold many millions of doses of dietary supplement products containing *Acacia rigidula* since 2004, Hi-Tech is unaware of any report of serious illness, injury, or death from any consumer of its *Acacia rigidula* products.

B. Defendants' Attack on *Acacia Rigidula* and Plaintiff's Products.

22. On or about April 7 2014, Defendants caused to be published in a journal known as "*Drug Testing and Analysis*"¹ an article entitled, "An amphetamine isomer whose efficacy and safety in humans has never been studied, β -methylphenylethylamine (BMPEA), is found in multiple dietary supplements," which included a listing of Hi-Tech products purportedly tested by the Defendants.

23. The article contained allegations that, when viewed by an average reader, would leave the impression that, among other things, Plaintiff's products containing *Acacia rigidula* are knowingly adulterated, misbranded, mislabeled, and dangerous to consumers.

24. Upon information and belief, one or more of the Defendants promoted and disseminated, or caused to be disseminated, the journal article and/or a press release regarding the aforementioned article to various broadcast, print, and internet news outlets.

¹ The journal's articles typically focus on, among other things, sports doping and illicit/recreational drug use.

25. As a result, Defendants were granted interviews wherein they provided further defamatory comments and statements critical of the FDA and Hi-Tech. Such further defamatory comments were subsequently broadcast or disseminated in over 200 interviews or news articles including, but not limited to:

- An April 7, 2015 video interview with CBS This Morning
- An online article by CBS at <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/new-study-warns-against-dietary-supplements-containing-bmpea-calls-fda-action/>
- An online article by USA today at <http://www.usatoday.com/news/2015/04/07/weight-loss-supplements-amphetamines-sports/25380525/>
- An April 23, 2015 New York Times article at:
http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/04/23/f-d-a-warns-supplement-makers-of-bmpea-stimulant-dangers/?_r=0

See Exhibit A for a listing of internet sites containing interviews or reports of the publication and Defendants' comments.

26. In the news articles and interviews Defendants falsely accuse Plaintiff of selling products that are illegal and/or dangerous. Defendant Cohen was quoted as saying "BMPEA has not been tested in humans, but led to increased blood pressure in cats and dogs. These are things that are signals that in humans will later turn into heart attacks, strokes and maybe even sudden death."

27. In the news articles and interviews Defendant Cohen also falsely states, "We took a look at a new replacement for ephedra the name for this is *Acacia rigidula*, but in fact, it does not have that plant in it at all. It has new, designer stimulant called BMPEA".

28. This statement convey a grossly inaccurate and false impression that *Acacia rigidula* is not in Plaintiff's products and it instead uses an illegal synthetic substance in its place. In the articles and interviews Defendant Cohen also states "There is not a single weight loss supplement on the market that is legal and that has been shown to lead to weight loss in humans," which implies that Plaintiff's products are not legal and/or not efficacious.

29. Defendant Cohen claims to be an expert on weight loss and, therefore, knows or should know of a plethora of scientific studies on dietary supplements and their ingredients that have demonstrated their efficaciousness in promoting weight loss.

30. In the news articles and interviews Defendant Cohen also states "'Acacia rigidula' is code in the industry for a potent synthetic stimulant. They are using the name as a cover." Defendant's statement implies that Plaintiff's products do not, in fact, contain *Acacia rigidula* which is patently untrue.

31. Defendants' published journal article states "Check your shelf for any supplements with the words 'Acacia rigidula'" and that this is "the red-flag ingredient and another name for beta-methylphenylethylamine (BMPEA)," which would lead the reader to imply that *Acacia rigidula* is not a lawful ingredient and that Hi-Tech's products containing *Acacia rigidula* do not in fact contain a naturally occurring ingredient like beta-methylphenylethylamine, but rather labeling BMPEA an illegal synthetic amphetamine analog.

32. In the news articles and interviews Defendant Cohen also states, "Some manufacturers of weight-loss supplements do list BMPEA on the label, but they imply that it comes from *Acacia rigidula* extract. However, there is no evidence that this is true." Defendant Cohen knows or should have known from a review of the

existing scientific literature that naturally occurring BMPEA is found in *Acacia rigidula*.

33. Defendant Cohen was asked in an interview about a statement released by Hi-Tech and provided to CBS News, that “Hi-Tech has sold over 1 billion doses since 2003 of *Acacia rigidula* and its alkaloids and have conducted numerous studies of these alkaloids and believe them to be safe and effective when used as directed.”

34. Defendant Cohen disagreed and falsely stated. “FDA's data suggests that the natural compounds found in *Acacia rigidula* are not present in these supplements regardless of the presence of BMPEA.” Moreover, “BMPEA has never been found in *Acacia rigidula* or any other plant.” In the news articles and interviews Defendant Cohen also states “BMPEA, which was presumably added to the *Acacia rigidula* products, has never been proved safe for human use” and that “BMPEA is in a sense, being tested on buyers,” Cohen says. “The consumer becomes the guinea pig.” Defendant Cohen’s statements are false and imply that Plaintiff’s products substitute synthetic BMPEA for *Acacia rigidula* and that Plaintiff’s products are unsafe and have not been tested for safety.

35. In the articles and interviews Defendant Cohen also states, “This is a brand new drug being placed into a number of supplements under the guise of a natural ingredient.” Defendant Cohen’s statement is false and defamatory in that it implies that Plaintiff’s products are misbranded and illegal.

36. Because Defendants did not review the existing scientific literature and did not conduct their testing with reliable scientific protocols, their testing for BMPEA in Plaintiff's products does not form a reliable basis for their allegations of adulteration or contamination.

37. Defendants apparently did not do basic or sufficient research on *Acacia rigidula* or Hi-Tech's products before publishing their accusations because their statements were easily verifiable as false. A cursory review would have found double-blind, placebo controlled clinical studies on supplements containing *Acacia rigidula* performed on humans by Hi-Tech and clinical studies performed on VPX's weight loss product Meltdown that included BMPEA in its labeling.

38. As a result of Defendants numerous false and defamatory statements and comments, Hi-Tech has lost numerous customers and/or continues to lose customers, a substantial portion of its revenue, and a dramatic decrease in sales through contract manufacturing and providing *Acacia rigidula* as a raw material.

**COUNT I:
VIOLATIONS OF THE UNIFORM
DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES ACT**

39. Plaintiff Hi-Tech re-alleges and incorporates by reference herein Paragraphs 1 through 38 above.

40. Defendants' public communications set forth above represented that Plaintiff's products have characteristics and ingredients that they do not have.

41. Defendants' public communications set forth above misrepresented that Plaintiff's products were of a quality and standard that would leave the average consumer to believe they are adulterated, misbranded, and mislabeled.

42. Defendants' public communications set forth above disparaged Plaintiff's products by false and misleading representations of fact.

43. Defendants' conduct therefore violates the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act, O.C.G.A. § 10-1-372 *et seq.* in that Defendants have disparaged Plaintiff and its products.

44. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' violation of O.C.G.A. § 10-1-372 *et seq.*, Plaintiff received a warning letter from the FDA on or about April 22, 2015 requiring that Plaintiff cease using *Acacia rigidula* in its products. Plaintiff has also lost substantial sales, lost goodwill from its vendors, customers, contractors, the general public, and a diminishment of its reputation. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to injunctive relief and costs as provided by the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act, O.C.G.A. § 10-1-372 *et seq.*

COUNT II: LIBEL

45. Plaintiff Hi-Tech re-alleges and incorporates by reference herein Paragraphs 1 through 44 above.

46. Defendants published the false and defamatory accusations against Plaintiff as set forth above.

47. Defendants published the false and defamatory accusations against Plaintiff as set forth above without any statutory, common law, or constitutional privilege.

48. The false and defamatory accusations against Plaintiff published by Defendants were subsequently republished worldwide and on numerous Internet websites.

49. Defendants' journal article and subsequent interviews and communications contain the following false or misleading statements (including purported lab tests and photographs) regarding Plaintiff's *Acacia rigidula* products containing b-methylphenylethylamine:

- (a) That the amphetamine isomer b-methylphenylethylamine (BMPEA) was first synthesized in the early 1930's, but its efficacy and safety in humans has not been studied;
- (b) That *Acacia rigidula* is "a new replacement for ephedra . . . but in fact, it does not have that plant in it at all. It has new, designer stimulant called BMPEA";
- (c) That supplement products containing *Acacia rigidula* are potentially deadly. "Let's not wait until we have a body count," he said. "Just get the job done";
- (d) That BMPEA remained known only as a research chemical until early 2013;
- (e) That BMPEA has never been identified or extracted from *Acacia rigidula*, a shrub native to Southwestern United States and Mexico;
- (f) That the efficacy and safety of BMPEA has never been studied in humans; therefore, BMPEA's effect on human health is entirely unknown;

- (g) That BMPEA has not been sold as a food or supplement and, therefore, is not a legitimate supplement ingredient;
- (h) That consumers should be advised to avoid all supplements labeled as containing *Acacia rigidula*;
- (i) That “*Acacia rigidula* is code in the industry for a potent synthetic stimulant,...” “They are using the name as a cover ”;
- (j) That “BMPEA has never been found in *Acacia rigidula* or any other plant”;
- (k) That “[t]his is a brand new drug being placed into a number of supplements under the guise of a natural ingredient”; and
- (l) That “BMPEA is in a sense, being tested on buyers,...” “The consumer becomes the guinea pig.”

50. The communications of Defendants as set forth above constitute libel in violation of O.C.G.A. § 51-5-1 *et seq.*

51. The communications of Defendants as set forth above constitute libel per se in that they impute criminal activity to Plaintiff and/or make charges against Plaintiff in reference to its trade, business or profession calculated to injure it therein.

52. The communications of Defendants as set forth above constitute libel per se in that impute actions to Plaintiff that injure its business reputation.

53. The communications of Defendants as set forth above constitute libel per se in that they impute actions to Plaintiff that are defamatory and injurious to its reputation on their face and can be so understood without reference to any additional or extrinsic facts.

54. Defendants' false and defamatory statements set forth above have caused and will continue to cause damage to Hi-Tech's consumer sales, brands, sales in the raw material and contract manufacturing divisions and loss of reputation and goodwill with regulatory authorities, vendors, business partners and customers.

55. Defendants' false and defamatory statements set forth above are the direct and proximate cause of the damages alleged above.

56. Additionally, as such statements amount to libel per se, Plaintiff has suffered additional damages. The special damages and actual injury is not limited to out-of-pocket loss, and include but are not limited to impairment of standing in the community and marketplace.

57. At least seven (7) days prior to the filing of this action, Defendants were informed that their communications regarding the subject matter herein were false and defamatory and were requested to retract their statements. Evidencing a reckless disregard for truth or falsity, Defendants intentionally disregarded and ignored the requested retraction.

58. Prior to their published journal article and interview comments, Defendants knowingly and purposely avoided and ignored evidence establishing the falsity of the information they published and provided in the subsequent interviews when the overwhelming review of the scientific literature in the public domain stated *Acacia rigidula* and other acacia species naturally contained b-methylphenylethylamine, a

phenylethylamine alkaloid. Evidencing a reckless disregard for truth or falsity, Defendants published accusations against Plaintiff and other manufacturers that clearly contradict known scientific facts of the natural presence of b-methylphenylethylamine in *Acacia rigidula* and other acacia species.

59. Prior to the publication of the false and defamatory statements, Defendants knew or should have known of the natural presence of b-methylphenylethylamine, a phenylethylamine alkaloid, in *Acacia rigidula* and other acacia species.

60. Evidencing a reckless disregard for truth or falsity, Defendants published accusations against Plaintiff without conducting even a cursory investigation to discover whether Plaintiff's products had been tested for safety (historically or clinically), which failure constitutes gross negligence.

61. Defendants had actual knowledge that the accusations against Plaintiff were false prior to publication.

62. Defendants' journal article, interviews and online comments with the media are accessible to Georgia residents, consumers, and third parties who do business with Plaintiff. Defendants' allegations have been published and read by third parties all across Georgia, the United States and the world.

63. As a result of Defendants numerous false and defamatory statements and comments, Hi-Tech has lost numerous customers and/or continues to lose customers, a substantial portion of its revenue, and a dramatic decrease in sales

through contract manufacturing and providing *Acacia rigidula* as a raw material. Additionally, as such statements amount to libel per se, Plaintiff has suffered additional damages. The special damages and actual injury is not limited to out-of-pocket loss, and include but are not limited to impairment of standing in the community and marketplace.

64. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to recover its aforementioned damages as well as punitive damages from Defendants.

COUNT III: SLANDER

65. Plaintiff Hi-Tech re-alleges and incorporates by reference herein Paragraphs 1 through 64 above.

66. Defendants verbally communicated the false and defamatory accusations against Plaintiff as set forth above.

67. Defendants verbally communicated the false and defamatory accusations against Plaintiff as set forth above without any statutory, common law, or constitutional privilege.

68. The false and defamatory accusations against Plaintiff verbally disseminated by Defendants were subsequently republished worldwide and on numerous Internet websites.

69. Defendants' interviews and verbal communications contain the following false or misleading statements regarding the *Acacia rigidula* products containing b-methylphenylethylamine:

- (a) That the amphetamine isomer b-methylphenylethylamine (BMPEA) was first synthesized in the early 1930's, but its efficacy and safety in humans has not been studied;
- (b) That *Acacia rigidula* is "a new replacement for ephedra . . .but in fact, it does not have that plant in it at all. It has new, designer stimulant called BMPEA";
- (c) That supplement products containing *Acacia rigidula* are potentially deadly. "Let's not wait until we have a body count," he said. "Just get the job done";
- (d) That BMPEA remained known only as a research chemical until early 2013;
- (e) That BMPEA has never been identified or extracted from *Acacia rigidula*, a shrub native to Southwestern United States and Mexico;
- (f) That the efficacy and safety of BMPEA has never been studied in humans; therefore, BMPEA's effect on human health is entirely unknown;
- (g) That BMPEA has not been sold as a food or supplement and, therefore, is not a legitimate supplement ingredient;
- (h) That consumers should be advised to avoid all supplements labeled as containing *Acacia rigidula*;
- (i) That "*Acacia rigidula* is code in the industry for a potent synthetic stimulant,..." "They are using the name as a cover ";
- (j) That "BMPEA has never been found in *Acacia rigidula* or any other plant";
- (k) That "[t]his is a brand new drug being placed into a number of supplements under the guise of a natural ingredient"; and
- (l) That "BMPEA is in a sense, being tested on buyers,..." "The consumer becomes the guinea pig.

70. The verbal communications of Defendants as set forth above constitute slander in violation of O.C.G.A. § 51-5-4.

71. The verbal communications of Defendants as set forth above constitute slander per se in that they impute criminal activity to Plaintiff and/or make charges against Plaintiff in reference to its trade, business or profession calculated to injure it therein.

72. The verbal communications of Defendants as set forth above constitute slander per se in that they impute actions to Plaintiff that injure its business reputation.

73. The verbal communications of Defendants as set forth above constitute slander per se in that they impute actions to Plaintiff that are defamatory and injurious to its reputation on their face and can be so understood without reference to any additional or extrinsic facts.

74. Defendants' false and defamatory verbal statements set forth above have caused and will continue to result in damage to Hi-Tech's consumer sales, brands, sales in the raw material and contract manufacturing divisions, reputation and goodwill with regulatory authorities, vendors, business partners and customers.

75. Defendants' false and defamatory verbal statements set forth above are the direct and proximate cause of the damages alleged above.

76. Additionally, as such statements amount to libel per se, Plaintiff has suffered additional damages. The special damages and actual injury is not limited to out-of-pocket loss, and include but are not limited to impairment of standing in the community and marketplace.

77. At least seven (7) days prior to the filing of this action, Defendants were informed that their communications regarding the subject matter herein were false and defamatory and were requested to retract their statements. Evidencing a reckless disregard for truth or falsity, Defendants intentionally disregarded and ignored the requested retraction.

78. Prior to their published journal article and interview comments, Defendants knowingly and purposely avoided and ignored evidence establishing the falsity of the information they published and provided in the subsequent interviews when the overwhelming review of the scientific literature in the public domain stated *Acacia rigidula* and other acacia species naturally contained b-methylphenylethylamine.

79. Evidencing a reckless disregard for truth or falsity, Defendants made verbal accusations against Plaintiff and other manufacturers that clearly contradicted known scientific facts of the natural presence of b-methylphenylethylamine in *acacia rigidula* and other acacia species.

80. Prior to the publication of the false and defamatory statements, Defendants knew or should have known of the natural presence of b-methylphenylethylamine, a phenylethylamine alkaloid, in *Acacia rigidula* and other *Acacia* species.

81. Evidencing a reckless disregard for truth or falsity, Defendants made verbal accusations against Plaintiff without conducting even a cursory investigation to discover whether Plaintiff's products had been tested for safety (historically or clinically), which failure constitutes gross negligence.

82. Defendant had actual knowledge that their verbal accusations against Plaintiff were false prior to publication.

83. Defendants' journal article, interviews and other verbal comments were and are accessible to Georgia residents, consumers, and third parties who do business with Plaintiff. Defendants' allegations have been published and read by third parties all across Georgia, the United States and the world.

84. As a result of Defendants numerous false and defamatory statements and comments, Hi-Tech has lost numerous customers and/or continues to lose customers, a substantial portion of its revenue, and a dramatic decrease in sales through contract manufacturing and providing *Acacia rigidula* as a raw material. Additionally, as such statements amount to libel per se, Plaintiff has suffered additional damages. The special damages and actual injury is not limited to out-of-

pocket loss, and include but are not limited to impairment of standing in the community and marketplace.

85. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to recover for the aforementioned damages, as well as punitive damages from Defendants.

**COUNT IV:
PERMANENT INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

86. Hi-Tech re-alleges and incorporates by reference herein Paragraphs 1 through 85 above.

87. For the reasons stated above, Hi-Tech asserts a claim for permanent injunctive relief to prevent the ongoing harm to Hi-Tech's brands, business reputation, and goodwill.

88. As shown from the facts above, unless Defendants are permanently restrained from further dissemination of defamatory, false and misleading information, Hi-Tech will continue to suffer reputational injury and lost income.

89. Plaintiff Hi-Tech does not have an adequate remedy at law for all of the damages caused by Defendants. Unless the injunctive relief requested herein is granted, Plaintiff will suffer continue to suffer irreparable harm by the Defendants' false and defamatory communications about its products.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

90. Hi-Tech therefore requests the Court to enter judgment in its favor and grant the following relief:

(a) Trial by jury;

(b) An award of special and compensatory damages in an amount to be determined at trial, against Defendants and in favor of Hi-Tech for the injury to its commercial reputation and business as a result of the disparaging and defamatory statements made by Defendants Cohen, Bloszies, Yee, and Gerona;

(c) That judgment be entered against Defendants for punitive damages in an amount to punish and penalize Defendants and deter Defendants from repeating this unlawful conduct;

(d) That Defendants be ordered to publish a retraction of the articles and interviews and any other written or oral communication made by Defendants about Plaintiff's products;

(e) That all costs of this action be assessed against Defendant including attorneys' fees;

(f) That Plaintiff be granted an assessment of pre-judgment and post-judgment interest on the recovered damages;

(g) That permanent injunctive relief be granted ordering Defendants Cohen, Bloszies, Yee, and Gerona, their agents, attorneys, servants, employees, and other persons in active concert or participation with them, including the officers, directors, and employees of *Drug Testing and Analysis*, to:

(1) Cease directly or indirectly publishing the defamatory statements contained on the *Drug Testing and Analysis* journal, and/or inviting or inciting others to republish the defamatory statements;

(2) Remove all content from the *Drug Testing and Analysis* scientific journal that is published by John Wiley & Sons and any abstracted and/or indexed references in Chemical Abstract Services, EMBASE, MEDLINE/PUBMED, Science Citation Index Expanded, and Scopus; and cease publishing same, while strictly preserving such electronic evidence for consideration and use in further Court proceedings; and,

(h) Judgment in Hi-Tech's favor on all counts of the Complaint; and that this Court award such other relief as it deems equitable, just, and proper.

JURY TRIAL DEMAND

Pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and all applicable law, Plaintiff requests a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: September 1, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Edmund J. Novotny

Edmund J. Novotny, Jr.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the above document was electronically filed using the CM/ECF system and was served upon counsel of record on this the 1st day of September, 2015.

/s/ *Arthur W. Leach*

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Exhibit A to Complaint

List of Internet Search Results for Acacia Rigidula, Dr. Cohen, BMPEA from Google, AOL, Yahoo, Bing Search Engines Dated: April 11, 2015

1. http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/04/07/study-warns-of-diet-supplement-dangers-kept-quiet-by-f-d-a/?_r=0
2. <http://www.naturalproductsinsider.com/blogs/supplement-law/2015/04/amphetamine-like-substance-found-in-weight-loss-sports-supplements.aspx>
3. <http://geekinfinite.com/news/2015/04/acacia-rigidula-supplements-contains-bmpea-2-years-after-fda-discovery/>
4. <http://www.alternet.org/personal-health/inside-33-billion-supplement-racket>
5. <http://www.latinoshealth.com/articles/5359/20150408/dietary-supplements-diet-pills-contain-amphetamine-substance-list-products-here.htm>
6. <http://www.classactioncentral.com/vitamin-shoppe-pulls-supplements-contain-amphetamine-like-stimulants/>
7. <http://www.crnusa.org/CRNPR15-AsksFDAtoEnforcetheLaw040715.html>
8. <http://www.newsinferno.com/fda-slow-to-warn-about-dietary-supplement-dangers/>
9. <http://www.schmidtlaw.com/amphetamine-like-ingredient-bmpea-found-in-11-supplements/>
10. <http://www.dailyrxnews.com/weight-loss-supplements-contained-acacia-rigidula-potentially-dangerous-stimulant-also-known-beta>
11. <http://www.nutritionaloutlook.com/150408/adulteration>
12. <http://www.thetimesgazette.com/fda-keeps-quiet-on-dangers-of-diet-supplements-that-contain-chemicals-like-amphetamine/2023/>
13. <http://www.newsledge.com/dietary-supplements-amphetamine-like-compound-found-14691>
14. <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/292100.php>
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